

A RESOLUTION *CLAIR MULLER*

06 - R -

06-R-1942

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT, ENDORSE, AND ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUTER RAIL PROGRAM, INCLUDING BOTH THE PROPOSED FIRST PHASE LOVEJOY TO ATLANTA COMMUTER RAIL LINE AND THE PROPOSED SECOND PHASE EXTENSION TO MACON THAT WILL ENHANCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEAMLESS, INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR THE ATLANTA METROPOLITAN REGION.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) identifies commuter rail as a high priority system serving the City and the region; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority and the Georgia Department of Transportation, support the Georgia Rail Passenger Program to bring rail passenger service to the people of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta and Clayton County have determined that commuter trains will be a benefit to their communities as a viable and reliable alternative and supplement to private automobile transportation; and

WHEREAS, the increased use of commuter rail service will directly lead to a decrease in the use of automobiles and thereby increase air quality within the region; and

WHEREAS, the initiation of the proposed commuter rail program is directly connected to the establishment of a downtown Atlanta multi-modal passenger terminal (MMPT) that will result in increased coordination between mass transit systems and will encourage the use of such systems by the citizens in the Atlanta region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed commuter rail service will add carrying capacity to a major corridor, help to relieve traffic congestion and make it easier to access businesses and major Downtown destinations and attractions such as the Georgia Aquarium, the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia Dome, Phillips Arena, Underground Atlanta, Centennial Olympic Park, and the World of Coca Cola; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency, the proposed commuter rail service can be used to move commuters out of the region and to transport heavy equipment, supplies, and relief equipment into the area; and

WHEREAS, the added mobility and accessibility for commuters to these destinations and attractions is a major urban planning goal serving the best interests of the city of Atlanta and the health, safety and welfare of its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL that it is the intent of the Atlanta City Council to support, endorse and encourage the establishment of a commuter rail program that will include a first phase commuter rail line between Atlanta and Lovejoy, Georgia, and a second phase extension that will provide commuter rail service between Atlanta and Macon Georgia that will benefit the Atlanta region in many ways. These include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Increased transportation capacity for commuters;
2. Increased accessibility to various mass transit service providers;
3. Increased accessibility to businesses and attractions within the city of Atlanta;
4. Reduction in traffic congestion; and
5. Improved air quality levels.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the City Council and the approval of the Mayor.